

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6280

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CINCPAC

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TAGS: PINT PFOR JA KS

SUBJECT: DIET AND PUBLIC REACTIONS TO KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: TOKYO 10883

SUMMARY: KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE ECLIPSED ALL OTHER DOMESTIC ISSUES IN DIET DEBATE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AND IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS STATEMENTS OVER WEEKEND. PRIMIN TANAKA, IN TV INTERVIEW SHOWN SUNDAY, ATTEMPTED TO STEM FLOOD OF SPECULATION ABOUT INVOLVEMENT OF ROKG IN CASE, IN DIET FONMIN OHIRA CONSISTENT IN ADVISING CAUTIOUS APPROACH UNTIL FACTS KNOWN. HOWEVER, IN DIET COMMITTEE MITI MINISTER NAKASONE CONCEDED THAT GOJ MIGHT HAVE NO OTHER COURSE BUT TO RECONSIDER AID TO ROK, DEPENDING ON DEVELOPMENT OF KIM CASE. WITH MINJUSTICE ISAJI TANAKA REFERENCE TO INVOLVEMENT OF QTE CERTAIN COUNTRY UNQTE AS BACKGROUND, PUBLIC, PRESS AND OPPOSITION REACTIONS SEEM TO SHARE ASSUMPTION THAT ROKG IS SOMEHOW INVOLVED IN KIM ABDUCTION. MINJUSTICE TANAKA, LDLH DIETMAN TOKUMA UTSUNOMIYA AND OTHERS RECEIVED TELEPHONE THREATS. KEY QUESTION NOW EMERGING IS WHETHER ROKG DID IN FACT INFRINGE ON SOVEREIGNTY OF JAPAN, AND IF SO, EXTENT OF

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ADVERSE IMPACT IT COULD HAVE ON PRESENT FRIENDLY JAPAN-ROK

RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIMIN KAKUEI TANAKA MADE FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT KIM CASE IN TBS-TV INTERVIEW TITLED QTE MEET THE PRIME MINISTER UNQTE TAPED FRIDAY FOR BROADCAST SUNDAY. DISCUSSION PANELISTS WERE PROFESSOR CHIAKI NIGHIMYAMA, RIKKYO UNIVERSITY, AND TOKURO IRIE, TBS NEWSCASTER. ASKED WHETHER JAPAN WOULD TAKE STRONG DIPLOMATIC STAND VIS-A-VIS ROK IF KIM ABDUCTION PROVED TO VIOLATE JAPAN'S SOVEREIGNTY, PRIMIN TANAKA REPLIED THAT THIS CASE COULD CERTAINLY DEVELOP INTO A DIPLOMATIC ISSUE, IF ALLEGATIONS ABOUT VIOLATION OF SOVEREIGNTY PROVED. HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CASE WOULD BE SOLVED WITHOUT ADVERSE IMPACT ON FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND ROK. JAPAN REMAINS WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH ROKG, PRIMIN SAID, WHILE CONTINUING ITS OWN INVESTIGATION OF CASE. PRIMIN CAUTIONED AGAINST SPECULATIVE JUDGMENTS. PRIMIN ALSO EXPLAINED THAT JAPAN-ROK MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE POSTPONED ON BASIS OF ROK PROPOSAL, WHICH OFFERED TO DEFER MEETING UNTIL AFTER PRIMIN RETURN FROM VISIT TO EUROPE AND SOVIET UNION.

2. FONMIN MASAYOSHI OHIRA REPORTED TO BE TAKING CONSISTENTLY CAUTIOUS LINE IN RESPONDING TO ALL QUESTIONS ABOUT KIM CASE IN DIET. IN LOWER HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SESSION FRIDAY, HE STATED REPEATEDLY THAT HE WISHED TO RESERVE JUDGMENT ON CASE UNTIL AUTHORITIES COMPLETE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION. OHIRA SAID THAT ROK NOT OBLIGED UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW TO COMPLY WITH GOJ REQUEST THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG BE PERMITTED TO RETURN TO JAPAN. PRESSED BY TAMIO KAWAKAMI (JSP) TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO ASSURE KIM'S SAFETY AND PREVENT HIS ARREST FOR ANTI-ROKG ACTIVITY, OHIRA REPLIED THAT HE COULD ONLY HOPE THAT ROKG WOULD PAY DUE CONSIDERATION TO KIM'S SAFETY. OHIRA ALSO SEEMED TO BE WHISTLING IN DARK WHEN HE SAID THAT ROKG HAD NOT YET SHOWN ANY OFFICIAL REACTION TO MINJUSTICE TANAKA UPPER HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE STATEMENT THURSDAY, I.E. THAT INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OF QTE CERTAIN COUNTRY UNQTE INVOLVED IN KIDNAPPING.

3. MITI MINISTER YASHUHIRO NAKASONE RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY KIYOMASA KATO (JSP) IN LOWER HOUSE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE MEETING FRIDAY GIVEN WIDE COVERAGE BY PRESS. KATO POINTED OUT THAT IT STRANGE THAT JAPAN PROVIDED LARGE-SCALE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AID TO ONLY SOUTHERN HALF OF DIVIDED KOREA, AND ASKED WHETHER GOJ SHOULD NOT DISCONTINUE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ROK NOW THAT SUSPICION HAS ARISEN THAT JAPAN'S SOVEREIGNTY INFRINGED BY ROK IN KIM CASE. NAKASONE REPLIED THAT GOJ WOULD HAVE NO COURSE BUT TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION, INCLUDING TERMINATION OF AID TO ROK. RESPONSE CONSIDERED NOTEWORTHY BECAUSE OF IMPLICATION THAT OVERALL JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE RECONSIDERED ON BASIS OF DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO

KIM CASE.
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4. MINJUSTICE ISAJI TANAKA EXPRESSED OPTIMISM IN LOWER HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE SATURDAY THAT ROKG WOULD ALLOW KIM TAE-CHUNG AND TWO OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS, YANG IL-DONG AND KIM KYONG-IN, TO RETURN TO TOKYO IN RESPONSE TO GOJ REQUEST. HE ALSO SAID THAT ROKG SHOULD BEAR SOLE RESPONSIBILITY QTE TO RESTORE SITUATION TO PRE-ABDUCTION STATUS QUO ANTE UNQTE. WITHOUT DISCLOSING SPECIFICS, MINJUSTICE TANAKA HINTED THAT GOJ WOULD HAVE TO TAKE QTE IMPORTANT ACTION UNQTE IF IT SHOULD BE PROVED THAT GOVERNMENT AGENCY OF ANOTHER COUNTRY, HOWEVER SMALL, WAS INVOLVED IN ABDUCTION WHICH INFRINGED ON JAPAN'S SOVEREIGNTY. HOWEVER, MINJUSTICE MADE CLEAR THAT GOJ NOT PLANNING TO DISCONTINUE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ROK, EVEN IF ROKG REMAINS ADAMANT IN ITS ATTITUDE ON KIM CASE. MINJUSTICE ALSO INDICATED THAT GOJ WISHES TO SEND INVESTIGATORS TO SEOUL, IF ROKG CONTINUES TO REFUSE TO PERMIT KIM TO RETURN TO JAPAN.

5. MEANTIME METROPOLITCAN POLICE DEPARTMENT INCREASED PROTECTIVE SECURITY FOR MINJUSTICE TANAKA FOLLOWING THREATENING PHONE CALL TO HIM AT HIS DIET QUARTERS THURSDAY NIGHT BE QTE FOREIGNER SPEAKING NOT-TOO-FLUENT JAPANESE UNQTE. OTHER VOICES

IN BACKGROUND INDICATED THAT SMALL GROUP INVOLVED. CALLER SAID TO HAVE ASKED WHETHER MINJUSTICE PREPARED TO TAKE CONSEQUENCE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EARLIER STATEMENT IN DIET THAT INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OF QTE CERTAIN COUNTRY UNQTE WERE INVOLVED IN KIM ABDUCTION. IN THINLY VEILED ALLUSION TO ROK, MINJUSTICE TOLD PRESS OF HIS IMPRESSION THAT CALLER SEEMED TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY QTE CERTAIN COUNTRY UNQTE IN QUESTION.

6. ELSEWHERE, LOWER HOUSE MEMBER TOKUMA UTSUNOMIYA, LEADER OF DOVISH LDP ASIA-AFRICA STUDY GROUP, ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE RECEIVED TELEPHONE THREAT THAT HIS FLIGHT WOULD BE BOMBED IF HE SHOULD DARE TO VISIT SEOUL. LONG-DISTANCE PHONE CALL BY UTSUNOMIYA TO VERIFY SAFETY OF KIM TAE-CHUNG IN SEOUL LAST WEEK GIVEN PROMINENT TREATMENT BY TV-NEWS. UTSUNOMIYA REPORTED TO BE RECEIVED HARASSING PHONE CALLS EVERY DAY. LDP HEADQUARTERS RECEIVED TELEPHONE THREAT THURSDAY, THAT KASUMIGASEKI SKYSCRAPER WOULD BE BOMBED IF LDP SEC GEN TOMISABURO HASIMOTO PERMITTED UTSUNOMIYA TO VISIT SEOUL.

7. IN LOWER HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SESSION FRIDAY YANOSUKE NARAZAKI (JSP) SUBMITTED PHOTO OF MAN WHOM HE ALLEGED TO BE MEMBER OF ROK EMBASSY STAFF IN TOKYO, AND WHOM HE FURTHER ALLEGED BOUGHT RUCKSACKS WHICH FOUND IN TOKYO HOTEL ROOM FROM WHICH KIM TAE-CHUNG ABDUCTED. HE ALSO ALLEGED THAT MAN IN PHOTO DRIVES MERCEDES WITH DIPLOMATIC LICENSE PLATE 48-52. NARAZAKI ASKED THAT GOJ CONFIRM WHETHER MAN IN PHOTO POSTED TO ROK EMBASSY, AND THAT METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT SHOW PHOTO TO EYEWITNESSES WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER MAN IS ONE OF ABDUCTION SUSPECTS. FONMIN OHIRA PROMISED TO ASK ROK EMBASSY ABOUT MAN IN PHOTO. JIRO NAKAJIMA, COUNSELOR, SECURITY BUREAU, NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY ALSO PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE.

8. HIDEO DEN (JSP) ALLEGED IN EARLIER UPPER HOUSE JUDCIARY COMMITTEE SESSION THAT MERCEDES WITH DIPLOMATIC LICENSE NUMBER 48-52 WAS SEEN IN UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT OF HOTEL GRAND PALACE ABOUT TIME KIM ABDUCTED FROM HIS ROOM THERE.

9. IN LOWER HOUSE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE SESSION FRIDAY, MIKIO TAKAHASHI, DIRECTOR GENERAL, NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY, SAID THAT KIM ABDUCTION WAS AN OPEN CHALLENGE AGAINST FREEDOM AND THE AUTHORITY OF THE JAPANESE POLICE.

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10. JAPAN NEWSPAPER WORKERS UNION (40,000 MEMBERS) SATURDAY
ISSUED STRONG PROTEST AGAINST ROKG SUPPRESSION OF FREEDOM OF
SPEECH, DIRECTLY CRITICIZING CLOSURE OF YOMIURI BUREAU IN
SEOUL AND EXPULSION OF TWO YOMIURI CORRESPONDENTS. UNION PROTEST
CALLED ON MANAGEMENT OF JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS TO MAKE FURTHER EFFORTS
TO REPORT TRUTH ABOUT ABDUCTION OF KIM FROM TOKYO HOTEL.

11. KOZO INOMATA, FORMER JSP LOWER HOUSE MEMBER, FRIDAY
PRESENTED ROK CONSUL GENERAL LEE YONG-HUN WITH WRITTEN REQUEST
THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG LIFE BE SAFEGUARDED AND HIS PERSONAL FREEDOM
BE RESTORED. INOMATA, ACTING ON BEHALF OF JAPAN BRANCH OF
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, LATER TOLD PRESS THAT LEE PROMISED TO
TRANSMIT REQUEST TO PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG-HEE.
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